

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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NEWS NOTES

Steamtown National Historic Site offers ride to Tobyhanna Ice Harvest Festival

Steamtown National Historic Site at Scranton is offering a mid-winter steam excursion to the annual Ice Harvest Festival and Demonstration at Tobyhanna.

On Jan. 13, a steam locomotive will travel to the Tobyhanna station, and excursionists will be transported to Mill Pond #1, courtesy of the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Valley Authority, where historic tools and equipment will be used to gather blocks of ice from the pond.

Additionally, the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association will conduct a tour of the Village of Tobyhanna.

The Tobyhanna Ice Harvest excursion departs at 10 a.m., and returns at about 2:45 p.m.

Cost is \$31 – ages 17 and older; \$26 – ages 62 and older; \$20 – ages 6 to 16 years old. Ages 5 and under require a “no charge” ticket. The \$6 daily Park Entrance Fee is included in the ticket cost.

Tickets are on sale and reservations may be made by phoning 340-5204, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily (10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. after Jan. 2).

If the pond is not frozen, tours of the village of Tobyhanna and the Mill Pond #1 ice house and restored 1908 boxcar will be conducted as an alternative.

The 1908 Tobyhanna station will be open and refreshments available through the Pocono Mountains Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Located in Scranton, Steamtown’s winter hours are 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily, Jan. 2 – March 31. From 1-81, follow exit 185 (Central Scranton Expressway); then, follow the signs to the main entrance at Lackawanna and Cliff Avenues.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 570-340-5200 or toll free 888-693-9391, or by visiting www.nps.gov/stea.

Donate a toy at Penguins game

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins have designated Dec. 15 as Tobyhanna Army Depot and OSC Day, and Dec. 16 as OSC Day.

Fans are encouraged to bring new stuffed animals and toys to the arena. Toys can be dropped off at collection boxes located around the arena. Volunteers will collect the stuffed animals after they’re tossed on to the rink after one of the periods. Last year, more than 1,300 stuffed animals and toys were donated.

Discount tickets are available at The One Stop Shop. Games start at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are for the gold section and cost \$12. The Penguins play Toronto Dec. 15, and the Philadelphia Phantoms Dec. 16.

The stuffed animals and toys will be delivered to area hospitals and agencies during the week before Christmas.

Inter-vehicle communications Reset keeps Soldiers talking



John Rusnok tests a component of a Vehicle Intercommunications System using automated test equipment. Tobyhanna is Resetting Vehicle Intercommunications Systems, which are used in tracked and wheeled vehicles such as the Stryker. Rusnok is an electronics worker in the Communications Systems Directorate. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

**by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor**

Technicians in the Single Channel Ground and Air Radio System (SINCGARS) Branch have Reset nearly 2,000 Vehicle Intercommunications Systems (VIS).

The systems, used in all tracked and wheeled vehicles including Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Strykers, provide vehicle crewmembers with the ability to communicate with each other and with other vehicles in the same unit. Each vehicle has up to six components that include a Master Control Station, headsets and control boxes such as Full Function Crew Stations that route the voice signals.

The system can interface with a SINCGARS to communicate outside the vehicle. “A Soldier can also plug into a vehicle from the outside via a SINCGARS or field phone handset to talk to the crew inside,” said John MacCartney, SINCGARS Branch chief. The branch is part of the Communications Systems Directorate’s Tactical Communications Division.

Tobyhanna began repairing and testing VIS in 1997,

said Greg Sawka, electronics mechanic. “There are about 90 VIS configurations. Different vehicles require different VIS components. One vehicle may have all the components, another only two.”

The Reset mission began in late 2004.

“The vehicles are shipped to Anniston (Army Depot, Ala.) and Red River (Army Depot, Texas), where the VIS are removed and sent to us,” he said. “We have 23 personnel working three shifts to repair and test the components.”

The technicians disassemble systems to the circuit card level, inspect, repair and test them. The circuit cards are also updated.

Usual maintenance includes replacing connectors and gaskets. New gaskets are produced by Systems Integration and Support Directorate (SIS) personnel.

Most of the vehicles are sent from Southwest Asia, but the sand problems that usually accompany repair of other equipment are not a problem.

“The gaskets give the boxes an airtight seal, so there is no

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**Collection to help
wounded at Walter Reed**

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**CFC donations over
the top**

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**Santa Claus retiring from
day job**

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Commissary scholarships for Military Children program opens for 2007

The Defense Commissary Agency has opened its Scholarships for Military Children program for 2007.

Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are available at 264 commissaries worldwide, or can be downloaded through links at www.commissaries.com, www.militaryscholar.org, or www.dodea.edu.

The \$1,500 scholarships are available for children of military active-duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members. Most of the funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers selling groceries in commissaries, and every dollar donated to the program by industry or the general public goes to fund the scholarships. The program is administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

Applications for 2007, which includes an essay on “how and why” the applicant would

change an historical event, must be turned in at a commissary by close of business on Feb. 21. The program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel.

Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database.

Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2007, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

For further information, call the Tobyhanna Commissary, 570-895-7628/7709.

Veterans honored at Prayer Breakfast

Sgt. Maj. Robert Anderson lights a memorial candle during the ninth annual Veterans Day Prayer Breakfast last month. The program included hymns by the depot choral group, Old and New Testament readings, and remarks by Chaplain (Col.) Hugh A. MacKenzie of the Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command. The Tobyhanna Veterans Council sponsors the annual event. (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)



Monthly collection here helps wounded military

The depot’s Army Community Services program is starting monthly collection drives to collect personal care items for wounded warriors undergoing treatment at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The wounded treated at the hospital include all branches of the Armed Forces.

The hospital’s Family Assistance Center provides assistance to the wounded during their stay at the hospital and their family members (normally spouse or mother of the wounded individual).

Army Community Service will coordinate the depot collections. Drop off points will be near the credit union in Building 11 and in front of the ATM in Building 1A. These stations will be set up the first Wednesday of every month between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The first drive will be Dec. 6. Limit donations to the

items listed below. For more information, call Alecia Sebring, X57069.

Due to their rapid movement from the battlefield to Walter Reed, the wounded arrive with nothing. Their personal items in Iraq or Afghanistan to be shipped to them later. Therefore, the wounded men and women need many critical items to sustain them.

Items required:

1. Prepackaged candy, cookies and crackers (no homemade)
2. Weight lifting gloves (for wheelchair patients - and there are many of them)
3. Pillows stuffed with polystyrene beads (very soft)
4. Postage stamps
5. Pre-paid phone cards (120 minutes and up)
6. Flannel pajamas

7. Shoes (size 9-12)
8. Sweatshirts / Jackets (zipped and hooded)
9. Break-away trousers (snaps or zips along legs)
10. Coats and jackets (cold weather)
11. Gloves (cold weather)
12. Scarves (cold weather)
13. Backpacks (all black with single strap across the chest)
14. Carry-on size luggage (with wheels if possible)
15. Electric razors
16. Umbrellas
17. Credit cards, prepaid (gas, gift cards and food for nearby Giant and Safeway)
18. Portable DVD players
19. DVDs – action to comedy (use common sense as far as content and subject)
20. Portable CD players and CDs

America Supports You: Online program sends care packages to troops, families

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Just in time for the holidays, Operation Homefront has launched “eCarePackage,” an online service that allows caring citizens to send care packages to deployed troops and their families.

Operation Homefront is part of CinCHouse.com, a community for military wives, and is a team member of America Supports You, a Department of Defense program connecting U.S. citizens with members of the military.

Servicemembers and families can register on www.ecarepackage.org, which protects their identity and location, and visitors can “adopt” them based on common interests.

Then visitors select individual items to create a customized care package for their chosen servicemember or family and include a personal message.

Operation Homefront’s team of volunteers takes the order, boxes the selected items and ships them directly to the servicemember or family - always protecting their identity and physical location.

“There’s nothing like a care package to cheer a deployed Soldier or a lonely military family, especially during the holidays,” said Amy Palmer, executive vice president of operations for Operation Homefront. “With operational security for the troops so tight, we were concerned that care

packages weren’t getting through. So we built eCarePackage to ensure our troops and families continue to ‘feel the love’ from Americans.”

Items available in the eCarePackage store range from toiletries and necessities to games, books and candy. Most items were donated from sponsors, particularly The Dollar Tree, which runs its Operation Appreciation program in most stores nationwide.

Donated items are not marked up, so eCarePackage visitors often pay only the cost of handling and shipping - making eCarePackage less expensive than doing it yourself. Moreover, Operation Homefront

has partnered with DHL, which provides postal service to overseas troops, to ensure direct and timely delivery of all care packages to deployed troops.

The eCarePackage program is an extension of Operation Homefront’s mission to provide emergency support and morale to our troops, the families they leave behind during deployments, and wounded warriors when they return home.

Operation Homefront recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Defense Department to ensure greater collaboration.

(American Forces Press Service. From a CinCHouse.com news release.)

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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**TEAM
TOBYHANNA**

EXCELLENCE IN

ELECTRONICS

Army to soon deploy troops with computerized equipment

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Following successful field testing last summer, the Army is planning to deploy its new Land Warrior System within the year, bringing the Army a giant step closer to electronic networking of the battlefield.

The wearable, computerized system includes lasers, navigation modules, radios and other technologically advanced equipment to help Soldiers shoot, move and communicate more accurately on the battlefield.

Ultimately, it will improve their ability to fight effectively and survive.

Testing of the Land Warrior package was conducted over a three-month period by the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Wash. It culminated in an Army Evaluation Command Limited User Test in September and October.

“The ‘4-9’ has been training for anticipated deployment next summer. Based on assessment results, it looks like we will deploy with the new Land Warrior and Mounted Warrior systems,” said Lt. Col. Bill Prior, battalion commander.

For the first time, infantry troops will be carrying digital gear that will help address some of the chronic difficulties for Soldiers on the ground, such as locating other Soldiers, identifying the enemy and getting the latest orders.

“Thanks to the successful demonstration at Fort Lewis, we now have the first Army unit ready to go real-world operational with Land Warrior capabilities,” said Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, Program Executive Office Soldier commander. “Land Warrior marks the path forward to a more capable, lighter-weight ground Soldier system. The leadership of the Army takes great pains and great care to ensure that our Soldiers are well equipped, well trained and well organized to accomplish the mission that the nation sends them on.”

During the comprehensive Land Warrior assessment, Fort Lewis Soldiers were equipped with 440 Land Warrior Systems, as well as 147 Mounted Warrior Systems designed for combat vehicle crewmen.

For the first time ever, large-scale map displays were used to show the Soldier his location, the location of his buddies, vehicle locations, known enemy positions, and up-to-the minute mission plans and orders.

Weapon systems equipped with multifunctional laser sights, day- and night-vision feeds, and direct connectivity



The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, spent three months at Fort Lewis, Wash., testing the Land Warrior System that will be deployed within the year. (U.S. Army photo)

to the Land Warrior and Mounted Warrior networks increase the Soldiers’ combat effectiveness while minimizing exposure to the enemy. Precise navigation and real-time, common situational awareness were shown to substantially reduce the risk of fratricide or surprise enemy attacks.

Bush: U.S. forces to stay in Iraq ‘until job complete’

by Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. leaders will consider all options on moving forward in Iraq, but three tenets of U.S. Iraq policy “remain firm and they’re fixed,” President Bush said on Nov. 30 after a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Amman, Jordan.

He also reiterated that U.S. forces would remain in Iraq “until the job is complete, at the request of a sovereign government elected by the people.”

However, Bush said, the United States is ready to make changes “to better support the unity government of Iraq.” He outlined three “key principles” the U.S. government would not waver from.

First among these tenets is that U.S. officials believe the success of Maliki’s unity government is critical to progress in Iraq. “His government was chosen by the Iraqi people through free elections in which nearly 12 million people defied terrorists to cast their ballots,” Bush said. “I’ve told the prime minister that our goal in Iraq is to strengthen his government and to support his efforts to build a free Iraq that can govern itself, sustain itself and defend itself, and is an ally in the war against the terrorists.”

Maliki agreed. He said Iraqi leaders have many ideas about the way forward and that he believes the challenges Iraq is facing are “not outrageous” given what the country has been through. “There are criminals, there are people who are breaking the law,” he said through a translator. “But the steel strength of the national unity government would help us face all those who are breaking the law, or those who are trying to take down democracy in Iraq, or those who are conspiring and trying to have coups

or basically bring down the national unity government.”

Second, the Iraqi security forces must be strengthened because the government’s success depends on their success. Bush said he and Maliki agreed on the importance of speeding up training for Iraqi forces. “Our goal is to ensure that the prime minister has more capable forces under his control so his government can fight the terrorists and the death squads, and provide security and stability in his country,” Bush said.

Finally, U.S. officials still believe Iraq must remain one united country “where democracy is preserved, the rule of law prevails and minority rights are respected,” Bush said.

“In the long-term, security in Iraq requires reconciliation among Iraq’s different ethnic and religious communities, something the overwhelming majority of Iraqis want,” he added.

Bush said he has solicited advice from military leaders and is awaiting recommendations from an independent group studying the situation in Iraq. “I assured the prime minister that our review is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the sovereign government of Iraq to meet their objectives, which we share,” he said. “I want to hear all advice before I make my decisions about adjustments to our strategy and tactics in Iraq to help this government succeed.”

However, he stressed, looking at options will not mean pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq in the near future. “I know there’s a lot of speculation that these reports in Washington mean there’s going to be some kind of graceful exit out of Iraq,” he said. “We’re going to stay in Iraq to get the job done, so long as the government wants us there.”

Bush thanked Maliki for traveling from Iraq to meet with him and said close cooperation with the Iraqi government is key to the U.S. assessment process.



Spc. Aldon Kelly and Pfc. Christina L. Wilson, both from 71st Chemical Company, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, greet President George W. Bush during a recent stopover in Honolulu. (Photo by Vanessa Perez)

“The prime minister and I agree that the outcome in Iraq will affect the entire region. To stop the extremists from dominating the Middle East, we must stop the extremists from achieving their goal of dominating Iraq. If the extremists succeed in Iraq, they will be emboldened in their efforts to undermine other young democracies in the region, or to overthrow moderate governments, establish new safe havens, and impose their hateful ideology on millions,” Bush said. “If the Iraqis succeed in establishing a free nation in the heart of the Middle East, the forces of freedom and moderation across the region will be emboldened, and the cause of peace will have new energy and new allies.”

Expressing confidence in Maliki’s leadership, Bush said he was reassured by the prime minister’s “commitment to a pluralistic society that is politically united and a society in which people are held to account if they break the law, whether those people be criminals, al Qaeda, militia,

whoever.”

The leaders agreed that terrorism is the greatest challenge to the new Iraqi government. “Terrorism is not a danger only to Iraq, it’s a culture, it’s an ideology. The whole civilized world must face it as one line, one unit,” Maliki said. “Some people might not understand the successes that we have as we daily face terrorism in Iraq and as the security forces in Iraq chase them down, arrest them. This is solid strength based on our vision, and our vision is that terrorism, terroristic ideology, extremism, sectarianism are all issues that will rob humans from happiness.”

In a joint statement issued after their meeting, Bush and Maliki said they had “discussed the plague of terrorism in Iraq, which is being fomented and fueled by al Qaeda.”

“The people of Iraq, like the people of the United States and the entire civilized world, must stand together to face this common threat,” they said in the statement.



Employees break the thermometer again

Depot and tenant employees donated \$155,830.92, 101 percent of the goal, as of Nov. 21. More than 1,300 pledge cards were collected. A final tally and other Combined Federal Campaign information will be in the next *Tobyhanna Reporter*. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

DIMHRS brings self-service capabilities to Soldiers

WASHINGTON — The Army plans to transform the way it manages its human resources by launching the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System in early 2008.

DIMHRS is a secure, self-service Web system that will give Soldiers 24/7 access to personnel data and the ability to update and review key personnel and family information without seeing a personnel specialist.

“DIMHRS is a congressional mandated program spearheaded by DoD, and will result in the Army significantly transforming the way it delivers military personnel and pay,” said Maj. Gen. Carlos (Butch) Pair, Defense Business Systems Acquisitions Executive. “DIMHRS will provide Soldiers significant Web-based self-service capabilities, integrate all components on one database, and significantly reduce workload for commanders and Soldiers.”

The self-service system will help Soldiers avoid traditional written or verbal processes that can be time consuming and costly.

DIMHRS will enable Soldiers to initiate requests for: assignments, training, retirement, record updates, awards, family-member travel, transition from the Reserve to Regular Commission, enlistment extensions, various waivers and enlisted

commissioning programs.

DIMHRS’ self-service capabilities will also allow Soldiers to more efficiently start, stop or modify discretionary allotments and savings bonds; complete an Employee Withholding Request (Form W-4); complete an Employee Reissue W-2 Request; change personal direct-deposit information; and change their state of legal-residence declaration.

“This real-time functionality will decrease processing time for personnel-action requests and improve customer service by virtually turning the personnel-action process into an almost paperless environment,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jose Miranda, DIMHRS Clearinghouse NCO.

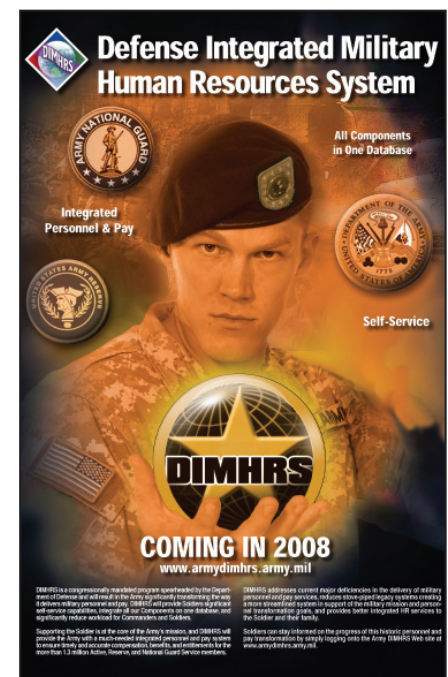
Soldiers will be able to track the progress of their requests from initial submission to final approval. Electronic signatures, e-mail notifications and automatic routing are also available.

Another key function in DIMHRS is the view-only screen, which lets Soldiers view such personnel and pay items as family member information; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214) and any corrections to their DD Form 214; Service Members’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI) election; Leave and Earnings Statements and Wage and Tax Statement (Form W-2); Record Brief; currently assigned checklists; a record of civilian and military education,

awards, contracts, and evaluations; and a Department of the Army photo.

For more information, visit the Army DIMHRS Program Office’s Web site at www.armydimhrs.army.mil or the DIMHRS AKO page at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/308853>.

(Army News Service)



Soldiers magazine’s January Almanac, available the last week of December, will include this poster announcing the new Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System. (Photo by Paul Crank)

Afghan Army becomes more capable, U.S. changes operations

by Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

FORWARD OPERATING BASE
GHAZNI, Afghanistan — U.S. military operations and missions have changed since the early days of Operation Enduring



Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division patrol Kunar Province, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Bem Minor)

Freedom and will continue to change as the Afghan National Army becomes a more capable and respected force.

“Every operation we do, we do with the ANA,” Army Sgt. Maj. Bryan Gran, operations sergeant major for Task Force Iron Graze here, said in a Thanksgiving Day interview. “If a squad of our guys goes out, a platoon of their guys goes out; if a platoon of our guys goes out, a company of their guys goes out.”

Task Force Iron Graze comprises the 102nd Infantry Battalion, of the Connecticut Army National Guard.

The unit falls under the 10th Mountain Division here and works in concert with Afghan army units throughout the 28,000-square-kilometer Ghazni province.

“We will not go into a compound by ourselves,” Gran said. “We do not kick down doors any more; those days are over.”

Instead, Afghan soldiers search homes and compounds while U.S. forces provide an outer security perimeter.

“They kick the door down or knock on the door,” Gran said. “We’re providing the additional security -- the big guns so nobody messes with them.”

Coalition forces in Ghanzni are spending thousands of dollars to improve schools, roads and other infrastructure, Gran said,

all in the cause of expanding the influence and standing of the democratically elected Afghan national government.

“I think there is a genuine concern now among the government to see running water and electricity (in the provinces),” Gran said.

Afghan citizens need to see that “being able to follow their own beliefs and their own system is the way to go, and they’re only going to be able to do that if they do it for themselves,” he said. “The Taliban’s not going to do it for them. The U.S. forces are not going to do it for them.”

The key is getting people to understand that their lives will be better under the Afghan government, then they will stop tolerating the Taliban and insurgents, officials said.

“Once that attitude gets down to the lowest individual – that patriotism matters – I think then we’ll be out of here,” Gran said.

“It’s a slow road. If anybody thinks you can come in here and change a nation overnight, you can’t” he said. “Can you come in here and destroy the enemy? We did. But that’s not going to change them; it’s not going to change the way (Afghans) think. It takes time to believe in it.”

Gran said he believes the biggest challenge U.S. forces in Ghazni province

face now is “to make enough difference that when follow-on units come we don’t lose any ground.”

“Historically what I think you see as units change over year after year is there’s a little gap because it takes time for somebody to get in country, ... and then figure out what you’re doing here and carry that on,” he said. “I think that’s a challenge -- that we’re able to create an environment and then take that environment and effectively pass it on to the 82nd Airborne (Division, from Fort Bragg, N.C.) when they come in (in February).”

Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot’s Red Cross blood drive dates are

the first and third
Wednesday of
each month.
To schedule an
appointment,
employees must
obtain supervisory approval
and then call X57091.

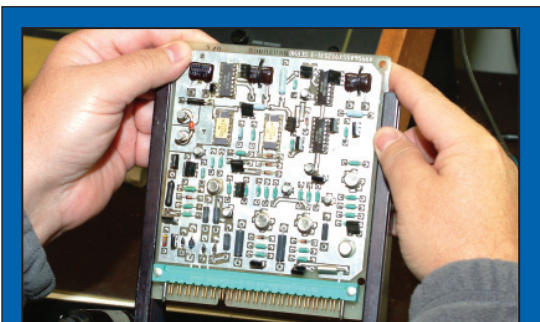


EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



Anthony DeFrancesco, electronics helper, reassembles the chassis of an AN/TPN-19 static frequency converter.

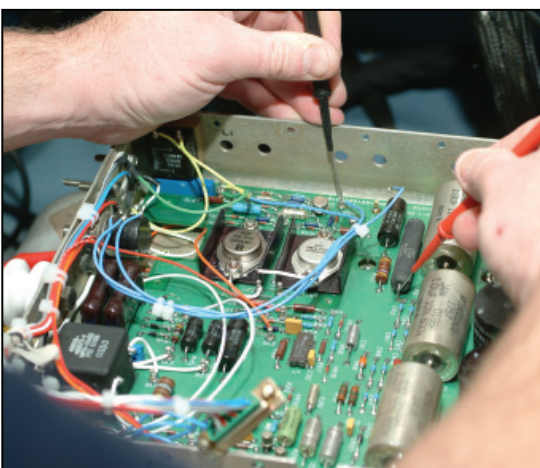


Equipment Specs

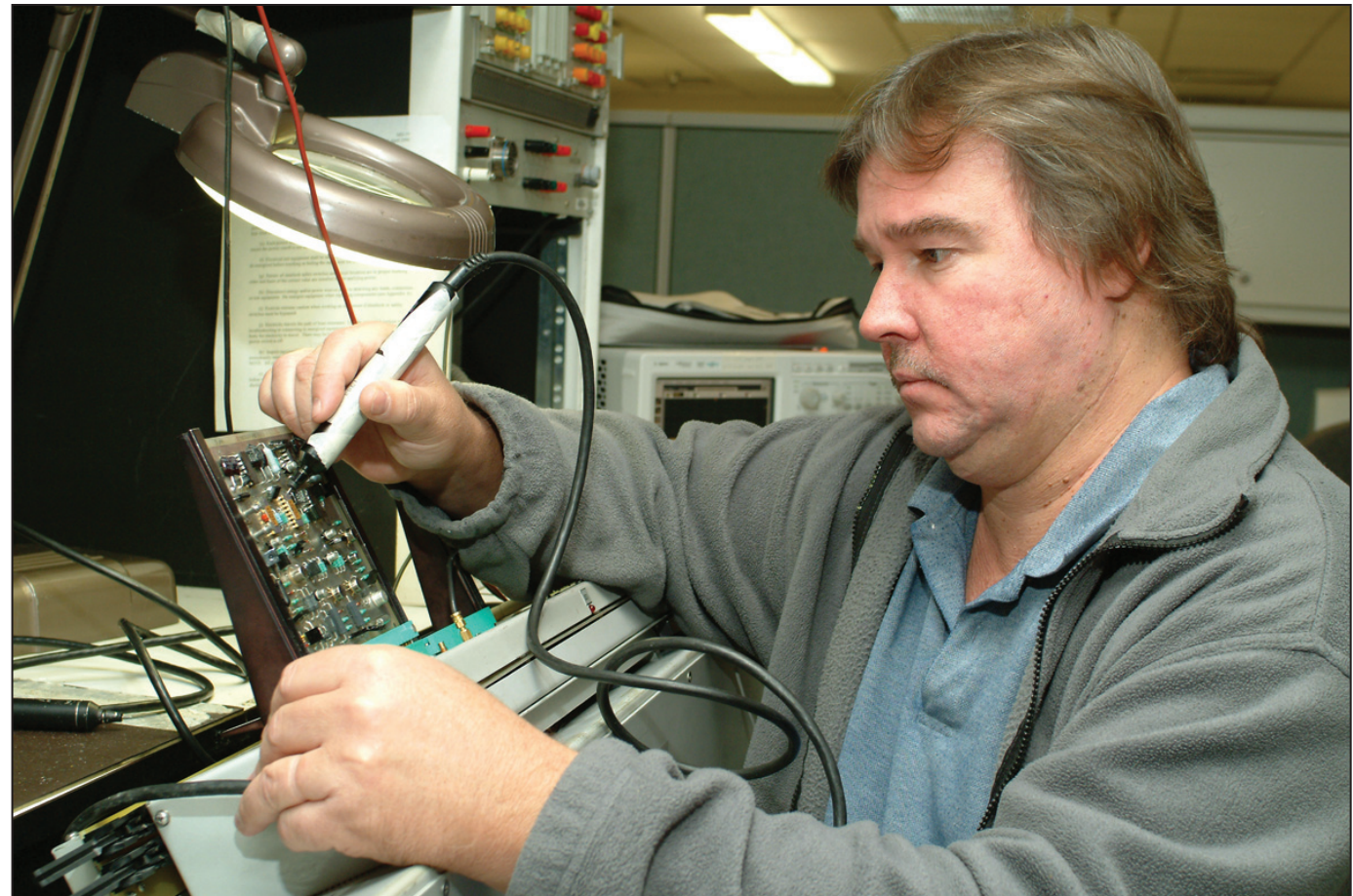
The **AN/TPN-19** is used by air traffic controllers to identify, sequence, and separate participating aircraft; provide final approach guidance, guidance through air defense corridors and zones, and coordinate identification and intent with local air defense units at assigned airports and air bases.

The **AN/GPN-20(V)** is used to detect aircraft within 60 nautical miles of the radar site and to process radar information for display on a plan-position indicator (PPI)

The **AN/GPN-22** displays to a ground controlled approach operator the accurate navigational information required for guiding an aircraft to a safe landing during both clear weather and instrument flight rules (IFR) weather conditions. The radar set detects and tracks aircraft approaching a runway for landing.



John Glatz, electronics mechanic, troubleshoots a modulator circuit card for the AN/GPN-22.



Peter Oster, electronics mechanic, tests an Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems circuit card on an automated test station.



Paul Duda (left), electronics mechanic, Robert Watso (background), electronics worker, and John Glatz, electronics mechanic, work in the High Voltage Test Station of the ATCALS Component Branch.



Robert Watso, electronics worker, prepares a component for testing at the High Voltage Test Station.

Air Traffic Control Branch Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate

The branch's 17 employees overhaul, repair, modify, test various components of the AN/TPN-19, AN/GPN-20 and AN/GPN-22 Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems



Thomas Makara, electronics mechanic, overhauls a 300 volt power supply for the AN/GPN-22.

Purple Heart memorial opens on Revolutionary War site

by Jason Cutshaw
Army News Service

AILS GATE, N.Y. — The oldest U.S. combat medal has a new home of honor on a site where Americans first fought for freedom.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor opened in a Nov. 10 dedication ceremony at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, where Gen. George Washington's Army camped toward the end of the Revolutionary War and where he first awarded the Badge of Military Merit, a small purple cloth that became the model for the Purple Heart.

The \$6 million Hall of Honor is first in the nation to recognize U.S. servicemen wounded or killed in action from the American Revolution to the global war on terror. It will serve as a living memorial, preserving and sharing stories of Purple Heart recipients through exhibits, live and videotaped interviews, and a Roll of Honor with an interactive computer program detailing the stories of each hero.

Stories of more than 12,000 veterans who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts are already being shared. The hall continues to receive hundreds of stories weekly.

The 7,500-square-foot facility includes a reception area, gallery, exhibit hall, learning and education center for school groups and tours, and a presentation room. Through historical photographs, documentary film



footage, period objects and videotaped recollections by veterans themselves, the Hall of Honor provides a multimedia show exploring the spirit of the American people in times of crisis.

Items on exhibit include photographs and papers donated by veterans, presidential certificates, uniforms of recipients and other related correspondence.

Over the last two years, Governor George E. Pataki helped raise \$1.5 million in start-up funds for the planning, design and development of the Hall of Honor. The remaining funds came from donations by various organizations, as well as veterans and their families.

"The Purple Heart Hall of Honor will be a national symbol of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women in the name of freedom," said state Senator Bill Larkin. "We can never repay these brave men and women, but we can certainly honor them and express our deep appreciation for all they have done. The Hall of Honor will do just that. It will serve as a powerful reminder to all of the cost of freedom, and it will be a source of pride and honor to our veterans and their families."

In addition to the cooperation of veterans and their families, the project enjoys the support of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the national organization whose members are themselves Purple Heart recipients.

The Hall of Honor is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and Mondays and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays year round.

Families who want to share their stories or other materials should call 845-561-1765 or write to: National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, P.O. Box 207, Vails Gate, N.Y. 12584.



Depot youth learn leadership values

Participants in the depot's first Youth Leadership Forum viewed the official NASCAR pace car before beginning a daylong series of workshops and activities. More than 30 students, grades 8 through 12, participated in teambuilding, diversity awareness, character formation and leadership skill activities built around the day's theme of SMART: Sharing, Motivating and Accepting Responsibilities Together. All activities were interactive, including a service project that provided school supplies for elementary students in the depot's School Age Services program, said Linda Kerr, Youth and School Liaison Services program manager. Dinner and a dance rounded out the day's activities. (U.S. Army photo)

Technology transfers benefit warfighter, first responders

by Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's technology transfer program, which shares newly developed DoD technologies with civilian first responders, benefits both communities in cost effectiveness and mission accomplishment, the DoD official in charge of the program said here Nov. 21.

Congress mandated the technology transfer program in December 2002 as part of the 2003 Defense Authorization Act. However, the program has only been actively in development for about two years, Donald Lapham, manager of the program, told the

Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

DoD has a long history of transferring technology to support first responders, but this program ensures all the department's capabilities are leveraged to provide as many options as possible to the civilian agencies, Lapham said.

"A lot of the equipment and technology that's used by the warfighter also can be used by first responders," Lapham said. "A lot of the equipment is similar to what law enforcement uses, and even what firefighters use."

Under the technology transfer program, DoD works closely with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to determine the needs of the first responder community, Lapham said. DoD laboratories look at the technologies they are developing to identify those that might transfer well to first responders, and consider dual-use capabilities for future products, he said.

Due to recent events, there is a strong focus within DoD and the first responder community on developing compatible communications, Lapham said. DoD has been working on new communications systems, and these technologies will probably be the first to be transferred to civilian first responders, he said.

The technology transfer program will benefit both DoD and the first responder community in several ways, Lapham pointed out. DoD will benefit from being able to field new technologies with first responders for further testing and development, and both communities will benefit economically, he said.

"If first responders purchase and use the same type of equipment as the warfighter, this will eventually increase the quantity of products produced, and DoD will benefit from a lower cost, as will first responders," he said.

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sand inside them," said Travis Gruber, electronics worker.

Components are also washed, painted and welded by personnel in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

"We have tight deadlines for these systems and SIS personnel have met every one of them," MacCartney said. "They have done a fantastic job."

When the systems are ready for shipping, Gruber and other technicians put together the proper configurations as specified by the customers.

"The components are shipped to us in large boxes and we match them to each vehicle requirement," Gruber explained. "There are typically four to six components in a vehicle."

MacCartney says they Reset more than 700 kits in fiscal year 2005, more than 800 in FY06 and have already completed more than 300 for FY07. "More are on the way and we expect to be working this mission for the foreseeable future," he said.



A model of a Vehicle Intercommunications System. Tobyhanna has Reset hundreds of these systems since 2005. The systems can be interfaced with a Single Channel Ground and Air Radio System for outside communications. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Julian Anderson	Electronics equipment specialist	D/C3/Avionics
David Ranallo	Electronics technician	D/PE
Walter Jones	Electronics mechanic	D/C3/Avionics

RETIREES

Three employees met with depot commander Col. Ron Alberto Nov. 29 before retiring.

Jerome McHugh was a mobile depot maintenance team leader, Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

He served seven years in the Navy before starting work at Tobyhanna in 1978.

McHugh resides in Cortel with his wife, Irene. They are the parents of Denise, Kendra, Shannon, Erin, Matt, Dan and Robby.

His hobbies include fishing, woodworking and gardening. After retirement he plans to relax, fish and garden.

John Miles was an electronics mechanic, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

He served seven years in the Navy before starting work at Tobyhanna in 1978.

Miles resides in Avoca with his wife, Patricia. They are the parents of Shawn and Jim.

His hobbies include walking and fishing.

After retirement he plans to "wake up and smell the roses," go for a walk and the "do as little as possible."

Allen Majetsky was a sheet metal worker, Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

He served two years in the Army before starting work at Tobyhanna in 1986.

Majetsky resides in Mahanoy City. His hobbies include golf, painting, reading and home projects. After retirement he plans to rest and relax, and get a part time job.



McHugh



Majetsky



Miles

NEW SUPERVISORS

Douglas Stevens is the Structural Repair Branch chief, Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 87 employees who perform sheet metal repair on 189 and 190 communications and operations vans, Recap on 146 and 147 storage and maintenance shelters, tactical satellite communications shelters, AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder radar, unmanned aerial vehicles, and a variety of military assets.

Prior to his current position, Stevens was a work leader, welder, Industrial Services Division, SIS Directorate. He began his career at Tobyhanna in September 2004.

Stevens is a 1977 graduate of Western Wayne High School, South Cannon.

He and his wife, LuAnn, reside in Taylor. They are the parents of Douglas, 21.

Stevens is a member of St. Patrick's Church and his hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Ricky Sweet is the Tactical Radio Branch chief, Tactical Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 30 employees who modify, repair and overhaul all tactical radio assets for the armed forces.

Prior to his current position, Sweet was an avionics/electrical supervisor for the UH-60 Blackhawk Recap program, Aircraft Production Branch, Maintenance Directorate, Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas. He began his career at Tobyhanna in October 2006.

Sweet is a 1977 graduate of Holmes High School, San Antonio, Texas. In 2000, he graduated from the Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in engineering.

He and his wife, Irma, reside in Albrightsville. They are the parents of Miguel, 21, Ricky, 18, and Sara, 11.

His hobbies include motorcycles, basketball and computers.



Stevens



Sweet

CAREER MILESTONE

Three Tobyhanna Army Depot employees were recognized for their years of government service during the Nov. 30 Length of Service ceremony.

Michael Corey, 30 years, lead information technology specialist, Architecture System and Application Design Division, Information Management Directorate.

Leo Kieczkajlo, 30 years, logistics management specialist, Commodity Management Division, Business Management Directorate.

Mark Kordoski, 30 years, electronics mechanic, Electro-Optic/Night Vision Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, 30-year honorees receive a framed American flag and aerial photo of the depot.

Honorees who attend the ceremony get a four-hour time-off award. Depot commander Col. Ron Alberto presented the awards.



From left, Mark Kordoski, Leo Kieczkajlo, depot commander Col. Ron Alberto and Michael Corey attend the Length of Service Awards ceremony held Nov. 30. (Photo by Tony Medici)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to

Jacqueline.Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076. Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

For more information, call X58073.



VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Jim Thorpe area:** 2 openings, via I-80, 5/4/9, both Fridays, call Brian Hydro, X58727.
- **Factoryville, Dalton, Clarks Summit:** 1 opening starts Jan. 7, passengers, van, non-smoking, "A" placard, 5/4/9, first Friday, call Richard Pomicter, X59343 or send e-mail.
- **Plains, Pittston:** 1 opening, starts Jan. 1, 6 passengers, van, "A" placard, house-to-house pickup in Plains or at Pittston park and ride, call Steve Beck, X59694.
- **Dunmore, Jessup, surrounding area:** openings, van, nonsmoking, 7 passengers, pick up at Holiday Inn in Dunmore, 5/4/9, call Yvette Pollack, X56475.
- **Bloomsburg, Berwick area:** individual needs a ride, van, bus or car, call Jim Sinclair, X57646.
- **Taylor, Scranton:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, pick up on Moosic Street, call Steve or Matt, X58727.
- **Lehigh Valley or Wind Gap:** individual seeks ride, van or car pool, 3:30 p.m. to midnight shift, call Craig Tshudy, X56978.
- **Lenoxville:** starting new van pool, 5/4/9, call Bob Tonkin, X57240.
- **West Scranton:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, Luzerne Street shopping center, non-smoking, call Jim Mangan or Bill Flynn, X58184.
- **Wilkes-Barre:** 2 openings, van, nonsmoking, 15 passengers, leaves Sam's Club parking lot at 5:45 a.m., 5/4/9, additional openings may be available, call John Alden, X58640.



TRADING POST

- **Miners Mill, Pittston:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, nonsmoking, pick up at Schiels Market in Miners Mill or Pollack Chevrolet on Route 315 in Pittston, call John Kozich, X57450.
- **Dunmore:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, nonsmoking, door-to-door pickup, 5/4/9, available Jan. 1, call TomStasko, X57930.
- **Factoryville:** 1 opening, 5/4/9, pick up at the VFW in Clarks Summit, call Norm White, X57520.
- **Children's clothing:** winter and summer, sizes 4, 5, 6, and 6X, in very good condition, 7 dresses, 6 pants/jeans, 6 shirts, sweatshirt, swim suit, 4 dance outfits, winter coat, sweater, free, call Karen Boruta, 842-1204.
- **Snow tires:** P205-70-15, Snow Tracker radio ST/2, used one season, \$30 for both, call Gloria or Jim, 876-3978
- **Mobile Home:** 3 bedrooms, located on quiet park off Route 307, in North Pocono School District, asking \$22,500 OBO, call 335-0079.
- **Misc. items:** utility dump cart, \$140; tow-behind lawn sweeper, \$400; tow-behind lawn sprayer, \$200; lawn roller, \$100; Canon S750 and S600 printers, \$100 each; corner computer desk, \$250; glass-top computer desk with two file drawers; television swivel stand, \$200, call Adrienne, 853-3113.
- **Harley Davidson Sportster:** 2003, 1200XLC, 100th anniversary edition, 2,500 miles, blue/chrome, \$9,500, call Heather, 570-236-8838.

Santa Claus retiring after 39 years of service

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

A Tobyhanna icon has decided it's time to turn in his depot badge. Michael Serino, who has delighted children for 20 years as Santa Claus, will retire Jan. 3.

Serino began working at Tobyhanna in February 1967 as an electronics worker repairing radios. He can't remember the specific date he began playing Santa, and he doesn't remember whom he replaced, except that the man "had a heart attack and couldn't do it any more."

Serino was already a member of Operation Santa Claus, helping deliver goods to local charities and social service organizations, and doing whatever else he could to help.

"Sandy Santarsiero and Norman Gayz asked me to do it," he said. "It was a time when my mother was sick, but I said yes immediately. I didn't have any training to be Santa; I just put the suit on and did it."

Serino credited Bill Rizzo and Eileen Rizzo for the outstanding job they did when they took over for Santarsiero and Gayz.

He said he watched a lot of the children who sat on his lap at the annual parties grow up, and he must have made an impression. "A lot of the older ones still come up."

Some of the children come with tough requests, like asking him to bring their parents back home, but he also has many funny memories. There is the usual beard yanking, hair pulling, trying to get his hat off, and of course, The Question — Are you really Santa Claus? "I answer, 'Do you want presents? They answer, 'Yeah.' And I say, 'Well, then you better believe.'"



Michael Serino, a quality inspector, has worked at Tobyhanna since 1967. He will retire on Jan. 9. He says he will continue serving as Santa Claus for as long as possible. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

Then there are the truly memorable incidents that made him laugh so hard he had trouble relating them clearly.

He remembers Col. Robert Benson for his poor driving skills.

"Col. Benson wanted to drive us in on a golf cart," Serino recalled. "He swung around the credit union and drove into the wall. Then he hit the wall again."

He also remembers Benson and other depot commanders for their outstanding support, even when glitches occurred.

"In years past, we'd get dressed, but had to wait until we could make our entrance. Well, that suit gets hot, and one year we waited and waited. I decided to not get dressed until we were sure everything was ready and we could just walk right in. The colonel, I forget his name, announced us three times, but this time we were the ones who weren't ready, and he got mad.

"I went to his office after the parties and he asked me if I was the one who made that command decision. I looked at him and said, 'Yep.' Well, he didn't yell or anything. The COs and their wives were always helpful."

The "we" Serino refers to is him and Mrs. Claus, played by Rose Gesell for about 14 years. Neither she nor Serino can recall exactly how long they have been together.

"I have enjoyed the time I have been Mrs. Claus to Santa," Gesell said. "It's almost like we are married during December because we spend more time with each other than our families and Santa calls me his 'December Bride.' We have a lot of good memories and have had a lot of laughs.

"Mike's best quality is his big heart. He gives his all to playing Santa and he truly enjoys it. We both love to see the smiles we bring to the children. Santa and I will continue our duties in the coming years for as long as we can."

"Rose takes care of me like my mother," Serino said. "She keeps me organized, prints calendars of where we'll be, and that's a lot of places. Besides the Christmas parties and tree lighting here, we'll go to at least 20 places this year — VFWs, fire stations, private homes, preschools, the University of Scranton. I don't think we've said no to anybody."

He recalled a trip to a home to visit an adopted boy from Russia. "He was about four and spoke better English than me. You had to meet this kid; he was smart as a whip. He was kind of quiet, but he knew about the American version of Christmas, the train around the tree, things like that."

"I have to hand it to Walter (Dorosky); he's taken the program and made it 10 times bigger than we ever had it. We now have 100 volunteers who do most of the work."

"Mike may be retiring from the depot, but he will always be a member of our Operation Santa Claus committee," Dorosky said. "We are happy for Santa, wish him the best



Michael Serino and Rose Gesell as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Serino has played Santa for 20 years. Gesell joined as Mrs. Claus about 14 years ago. Serino and Gesell have delighted children not only at the annual Tobyhanna Christmas parties, but all over the region. (Photo courtesy Rose Gesell)

and expect him to be seated in Santa's chair in December of 2007!"

Serino noted that he is on a long list of recent retirees and it's affecting the OSC. "We need some young blood," he said. "It's a seasonal commitment for those who help during Christmas. They help with the toy drives, play the cartoon characters and guide the children from the buses. The committee is more involved, but it would be nice if they had more people as well."

He says he has no serious regrets. "If I could get this much attention, I'd wear the suit all year," he joked. His one irritation is when there are so many children that they must be moved quickly so they all have a chance to talk to Santa.

"I prefer to let them get done with what they are asking," he said. "If I won the lottery, I'd write down everything the kids want and get it for them."

He says he will miss the people at Tobyhanna. And along with his more than 50 years of involvement in regional Little League, he plans to continue playing Santa until he can't do it anymore.

"There are some beautiful people out there."

Editor's Note: Employees who wish to learn more about being an OSC volunteer can call Walter Dorosky, Community Services director, X57150.

NORAD's Santa-tracking Web site opens for 2006 season

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — In advance of the holiday season and its 51st season of tracking Santa Claus on his annual journey around the world, the North American Aerospace Defense Command last week activated its "NORAD Tracks Santa" Web site for 2006.

The U.S.-Canadian command's program began in 1955 when an errant phone call was made to NORAD's predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The call was from a local child who dialed a misprinted telephone number in a local newspaper advertisement.

The commander who answered the phone

that night gave the youngster the information he requested — the whereabouts of Santa Claus — and thus the tradition of NORAD tracking Santa began.

The program has grown immensely since it was first presented on the Internet in 1998. Last year, the Web site received 912 million "hits" from 204 countries and territories.

In addition, the NORAD Tracks Santa Operations Center, occupied by 550 volunteers on Christmas Eve, answered nearly 55,000 phone calls and nearly 98,240 e-mails from children around the world.

The Web site — www.noradsanta.org — features the history of the program, information on how

NORAD tracks Santa and interactive games.

On Dec. 24, beginning at 2 a.m. Mountain Time, the Web site will feature a minute-by-minute update on Santa's travels around the world.

All of this information is available English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish.

Island Web Studios, America Online, Akami, Analytical Graphics, Globelink Language and Cultural Services, Qwest Communications, Verizon, and Microsoft Virtual Earth help to make the program possible, NORAD officials said.

(From a North American Aerospace Defense Command news release.)

